



Legislative Report
July 9, 2015

Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update
Provided by the Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Act No. 252 Public Acts of 2014, Approved by the Governor June 30, 2014, Filed with the Secretary of State June 30, 2014, EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2014.

AN ACT to make appropriations ...

Sec. 457. On or before October 15, 2008, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the department shall report to the senate and house agriculture committees, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on agriculture, and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the department's progress toward meeting USDA requirements as outlined in the March 2007 bovine TB program review. The report shall include, but is not limited to, information and data on: wildlife risk mitigation plan implementation in the modified accredited zone; implementation of a movement certificate process; progress toward annual surveillance test requirements set out in the June 2007 MOU; compliance efforts and rates for animals crossing the Mackinac Bridge; efforts to work with slaughter facilities in Michigan, as well as those that slaughter a significant number of animals from Michigan; educational programs and information for Michigan's livestock community; any other item the legislature should be aware of that will promote or hinder efforts to achieve bovine TB-free status for Michigan.

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A. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities

Why We Do What We Do

Michigan's citizens are protected from exposure to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism as a result of the Bovine TB Eradication Program. The Michigan Bovine TB Program was established under Public Act 466, of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, and is required under Federal Law in order for Michigan producers to participate in interstate commerce of animals (9CFR Part 77) and to maintain a state status (9CFR Part 92). Bovine TB has economic and human health implications and the program is of high visibility and interest to farmers, producer groups, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is of high interest at the national level, and other states would close their markets to Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products if the program were reduced or eliminated. More than 13,600 cattle producers in Michigan maintain over 1.1 million cattle each year. The Michigan program prevents farm to farm transmission of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets. The 74 dairy producers located within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) may sell Grade A milk because their herds are TB tested annually.

Trace Testing in Gratiot and Midland Counties

20 of 59 trace investigations relating to the 61st TB affected herd have been completed. Six of these herds, with 234 cattle, have been TB tested with no further finding of disease.

Circle Testing in Presque Isle County

As a result of discovering two TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer in Presque Isle County, two potential high-risk areas were established on February 9, 2015. To date, 42 herds with 1,152 head of cattle have been TB tested with no disease found in the tested herds. An additional 14 herds are scheduled to test. TB testing in the two potential high-risk areas will be completed by August 9, 2015, apart from four herds that have herd plans to test after that date.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

On October 13, 2014, the new zoning order went into effect and recognizes the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Otsego, and Presque Isle as Accredited TB Free. At present 79 of Michigan's 83 counties (95%) have moved to TB Free status.

The main change to the new zoning order relates to surveillance testing in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties:

- 55 herds are randomly picked annually to TB test from Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego Counties combined
- 61 Presque Isle County herds are randomly picked annually to TB test
- No further surveillance TB testing is occurring in Crawford County

So far in 2015, 178 whole herd tests have been completed in the MAZ and 89 whole herd tests have been completed in the TB Free Zone.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Update on Infected Feedlot #2

This Huron County feedlot was designated as affected by bovine TB on February 27, 2014. On March 24, 2014, NVSL reported that the genome of the Huron feedlot slaughter trace animal matched the genome of the Saginaw herd. Exposed animals were sent to slaughter at federally inspected slaughter plants on sealed trailers when they reached slaughter weight. This process was completed on March 18, 2015. The premises was cleaned and disinfected and the quarantine was released on May 20, 2015.

Update on Infected Feedlot #3

This Huron County feedlot was designated as affected by bovine TB on April 3, 2014. On June 13, 2014, NVSL reported that the genome of the Huron feedlot slaughter trace animal matched the genome of the Saginaw herd. The remaining quarantined cattle at this feedlot were sent to slaughter on October 30 and 31, 2014. The premises was cleaned and disinfected and the quarantine was released on June 1, 2015.

Update of Infected Herd #61

On March 30, 2015, a dairy herd in Alpena County, in Michigan's Modified Accredited Zone was found to have 39 animals that responded to TB testing. A quarantine was issued on March 26, 2015, when the TB testing began. Those 39 animals were removed from the premises for confirmatory testing at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) and 32 of the 39 animals had lesions consistent with bovine TB. A second test of all animals in the herd was done in May and an additional 35 animals responded to the second test, including many that were negative on the first test. The herd owners have requested to depopulate the herd. That request is working its way through the Federal indemnity system. While that is in progress, TB Program staff is working with the owners of the farm to upgrade the farm's biosecurity plan.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll commercial farms. MDARD asked that these farmers adopt biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct or indirect contact with bovine tuberculosis infected free-ranging white-tailed deer. Farmers in Northern Lower Michigan whose cattle have been identified as at risk for bovine TB transmission from wildlife are using the following steps to prevent disease transmission and to market their cattle:

- Fence in feed – and keep the fences closed
- Store feed in buildings
- Feed cattle away from deer cover
- Feed cattle daily
- Provide water to cattle where it cannot be contaminated by deer
- Use disease control permits from DNR to keep deer numbers down on cattle farms

Presently, 789 of the 861 active commercial farms in the TB surveillance zone (91.64%) have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in place.

E. Communications/Outreach

News Release:

[Annual Testing in Bovine TB Area Finds Infected Herd](#) April 23, 2015

Producer meeting will be held on May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Outreach:

Alpena County Public Meeting

A public meeting was held May 14, 2015 at the Green Township Hall in Lachine, Michigan for TB Program staff to discuss the 61st TB affected herd as well as the progress that has been made with bovine TB in recent years, at both the state level, and in Alpena County.